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wherein the patient, flexing the joint, causes a cursor movement on the display, the cursor reaching a target position on the display at a selected, predetermined time, in which the motion of the cursor is correlated with motion or strain of the joint as detected by the sensor in the ambulatory orthosis system support when the ambulatory orthosis support is associated with the joint of the patient.

REMARKS

Claims 24-31 and 50 are pending and presently stand finally rejected. With this amendment, claims 24 and 50 are amended. Support for the amended recitation regarding the ambulatory aspect of the invention is present in the specification for example, on page 22, at line 25, wherein the inventors clarified that the present invention is ambulatory in the sense that it is carried by the patient during claimed activities. With respect to amended claim 50, an amendment is presented which seeks to address the Examiner's concerns about the relationship between claims 24 and 50. No new matter is introduced by the amendment Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 50 was rejected as indefinite. The Examiner raised the question of whether the orthoses were identical in claims 24 and 50. By way of amendment, Applicants believe that they have adequately addressed the Examiner's concerns by re-expressing and further clarifying the invention recited in claim 50 as a system, rather than a device or apparatus. The invention of claim 24 remains a method. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 24-31 and 50 were rejected over the Pitkanen reference, U.S. 4,556,216. The current amendments clarify Applicant's use of the term "ambulatory" with respect to the support as meaning that a patient carries the ambulatory support during exercise activities. In contrast, the Pitkanen device is indeed portable and foldable as pointed out by the

Examiner. However, the Pitkanen device does not reasonably appear to perform any function as an exercising apparatus while such being folded to allow simple transport or storage. One of ordinary skill would not look to the folded, portability teaching of Pitkanen to arrive at a device which is ambulatory in the sense of being carried during the performance of exercise activity. As such, the inventions of claims 24-31 and 50 are not obvious over the Pitkanen reference. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 24-31 and 50, as presently recited, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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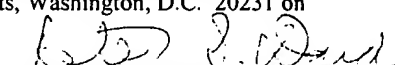
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Peter S. Dardi, Ph.D.

ATTACHMENT
MARKED-UP AMENDMENT

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph(s) and/or section(s):

Page 1, lines 3-6 substitute paragraph:

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application serial number 60/098,779, entitled "ORTHOSIS FOR JOINT REHABILITATION," filed on [September 1, 1998] September 1, 1998."

In the Claims

24. (Twice Amended) A method of performing coordination exercises for neuromotor training ,
the method comprising:

flexing a first joint of a patient such that a cursor on a display moves to reach a target position on the display at a selected, predetermined time, the motion of the cursor being correlated with the motion or strain of the joint by way of a sensor in an ambulatory orthosis placed at the joint, the ambulatory orthosis comprising a support portion that fits around the joint such that the ambulatory orthosis is carried by the patient during the flexing step.

50. (Twice Amended) An ambulatory orthosis system [that implements the method of claim 24], the ambulatory orthosis system comprising:

[the] a display,

[the] a support portion that fits around [the] a joint and is carried by the patient during activities and a sensor on the support portion, and

a controller operably connected to the sensor, wherein the controller controls the display based on signals from the sensor, and

wherein the patient, flexing the joint, causes a cursor movement on the display, the cursor reaching a target position on the display at a selected, predetermined time, in which the motion of the cursor is correlated with motion or strain of the joint as detected by the sensor in the ambulatory orthosis system support when the ambulatory orthosis support is associated with the joint of the patient.